

<i>Income Tax</i>	<i>1989-90</i> <i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>	<i>1990-91</i>
3. Smt. Prema Bai B.T. Desai, Panaji	8	9
4. Deepak M Rajani, Panaji	-	8
5. Meena D Rajani, Panaji	-	8
6. M.D. Menzez, Panaji	9	-
7. Rosa Maria Menzez, Panaji	9	-

Consumer Price Index

the consumer price index; and

6991. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(c) the steps taken to contain the rise in prices?

(a) the consumer price index as on June 30, 1991, and how does it compare with the consumer price indices as on December 31, 1990, June 30, 1990, December 31, 1989 and June 30, 1989;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers (base: 1982=100) for the specific months are indicated below:

(b) the reasons for the sharp increase in

<i>Month</i>	<i>CPI</i>	<i>Percentage increase in the index until June, 1991 since the month referred.</i>
June, 1989	170	22.9
December 1989	175	19.4
June, 1990	185	13.0
December, 1990	199	5.0
June, 1991	209	—

(b) The sharp increase in the CPI is due to (i) fiscal imbalances resulting in higher increase in money supply, liquidity overhang and thus effective demand, (ii) supply and demand in balances in essential commodities

such as edible oils, pulses, fruits and vegetables, condiments and spices, meat, eggs and fish, milk etc, mainly due to shortfalls in domestic production and inability of the Government to import certain items

because of persistent pressure on balance of payments, (iii) wage-price spiral in many industries leading to cost-push inflation, in addition to demand-pull inflation, and (iv) the consequent inflationary expectations in the economy. A part from the underlying inflationary pressure arising from macro-economic imbalances, the substantial increase in prices is also attributed to sharp increases in procurement prices of agricultural commodities, upward revision of administered prices of petroleum products and levy sugar, increase in transportation and handling costs and existence of imperfect market structures for most of the commodities.

(c) The Government have adopted a multi-pronged strategy to contain the rise in prices. This includes a strict fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money supply, more effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities, streamlining of the public distribution system and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers. Besides the above measures, the Government have also introduced a number of structural policy reforms in the spheres of trade, industrial, monetary and fiscal policies. These measures are expected to control inflation and bring about a reasonable price stability in future.

Compensation Paid by PNB to Employees in Dacoity Cases

6992. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of Punjab National Bank died while resisting bank dacoities in their banks in Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during 1991, till date;

(b) whether any compensation is paid to the families of such employees by the bank;

(c) if so, the rank-wise details of the

employees who have been paid such compensation by the bank since January, 1991;

(d) whether there are any cases where compensation has been paid to the families though the person (s) who did not die while resisting dacoity;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Punjab National Bank has informed that none of its employees has been killed while resisting bank robberies in its branches in Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh since 1st January, 1991 till 7th September, 1991.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Two officials of the bank were killed on 3.8.91 by militants at their residences at Ludhiana. Bank has paid compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to the families of each of the officials.

Change in List of Items Allowed to Import Under OGL

6993. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made some changes in the list of items allowed to be imported under Open General Licence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.